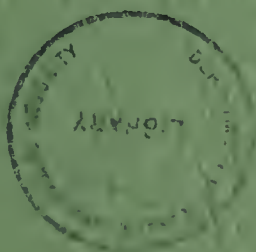




BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR 1968



BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
W. Moore, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Together with the


ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
R. Frankham, M.A.P.H.I.

1968

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.
(Telephone No. Redhill 61265/6)



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INDEX TO SECTIONS

SECTION		Page
I	Statistics and Social Conditions	4 to 8
"	II Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	9 to 13
"	III Housing	14 to 15
"	IV Inspection and Supervision of Food	16 to 17
"	V Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	18 to 25
REPORT of Chief Public Health Inspector	.. ..	26 to 41

CONTENTS

Atmospheric Pollution - Clean Air Act	.. ..	12
Bacteriological Examination of Milk and Food	.. ..	16, 17
Births	.. ..	4
Camping and Caravan Sites	.. ..	12
Closet Accommodation	.. ..	10
Common Lodging Houses	.. ..	12
Complaints received, Summary of	.. ..	38
Deaths	.. ..	4, 8
Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957	.. ..	37
Disinfection and Disinfestation	.. ..	12, 25, 27
Dysentery	.. ..	20
Education, Health	.. ..	41
Factories Act, 1961	.. ..	13, 35, 36, 40
Fairground Sanitation	.. ..	38
Flooding	.. ..	10
Food and Drugs - Inspection and Sampling	.. ..	29, 31, 33, 34, 39
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments	.. ..	35
Heating Appliances	.. ..	38
Housing Acts, Improvement Grants	.. ..	35, 37
Housing Statistics	.. ..	14, 15
Ice-Cream	.. ..	17, 32
Infectious Diseases	.. ..	18, 19, 20, 27
Infective Jaundice.	.. ..	20
Isolation Hospital Accommodation	.. ..	18
Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963	.. ..	17
Mass Radiography	.. ..	21
Measles	.. ..	20
Merchandise Marks Act	.. ..	33
Milk Supply, Regulations, etc.	.. ..	16, 33
National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47	.. ..	5
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	.. ..	38
Notices Issued	.. ..	39
Nuisances Abated	.. ..	39
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	.. ..	12, 37, 40
Pediculosis	.. ..	25
Pneumonia	.. ..	20
Population	.. ..	4
Public Cleansing	.. ..	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. ..	20
Rag Flock, etc., Act, 1951	.. ..	35
River Pollution	.. ..	11
Rodent Control	.. ..	40, 41
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	20
Sewerage	.. ..	10
Slaughtering and Meat Inspection	.. ..	28, 29, 30
Smallpox	.. ..	18
Staff	.. ..	2
Swimming Baths and Pools	.. ..	9
Tuberculosis	.. ..	21, 22
Vaccination and Immunisation	23, 24, 25
Vital Statistics	6, 7
Water Supply	9
Whooping Cough	20

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Diploma of Meat and Other Foods

THIRD POST - VACANT FROM 13TH JULY, 1967

Pupil Public Health Inspector

PAUL A. JEFFERY.

Technical Assistants

JOHN AGENT

LESLIE PARTEN (from 1st July, 1968)

District Pests Officers

EDWARD E. ARNOULD
PETER REEVES

Disinfecting Officers

PETER VALLINS (Until 31st October, 1968)

Clerks

MARY B. WICKENDEN (Part-time)
SUSAN A. GEALE

STEPHANIE A. SMYTHE (until 29th March, 1968)
DAPHNE MANN (from 12th December, 1968)

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the public health, sanitary circumstances and vital statistics of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1968.

The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security, as indicated in Circular 1/69, and contains the information requested in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

As can be seen from the figures, the Reigate statistics follow the national trend closely. There was a slight decrease in the birth rate, while the death rate showed a small increase.

There were no serious epidemiological problems during 1968. Very few infectious diseases were notified. Infective hepatitis became notifiable during the year, and a close watch is being maintained on any young adolescents who may be reported. There is a hazard with regard to drug addiction in this area and I consider, in the near future, some form of Adolescent Advisory Unit may be required.

Brief reference is made to the measures taken by the Public Health Department to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, sanitary inspection, duties under the Factories Acts, scavenging and cleansing, disinfection and disinfection, supervision of caravan sites and other routine matters having a direct bearing on environmental hygiene and the prevention of disease and ill-health.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support and consideration they have kindly extended to me throughout the year. I should also like to express my thanks to Mr. Frankham, the Chief Public Health Inspector, the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and efficient support, and my colleagues in other Departments of the Corporation for their ready assistance and help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM MOORE

Medical Officer of Health.

28th July, 1969.

Caberfeigh,
Hatchlands Road,
Redhill.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	..	..	..	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1961	..	..	..	53,751
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1968	..	..	..	55,270
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1968, according to Rate Books	..	..	..	17,643
Rateable Value (1st April, 1968)	..	..	..	£3,089,689
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	£12,661

Population

The resident population of the Borough at mid-year 1968, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 55,270, which shows a decrease of 1,070 on the corresponding estimate for 1967. With this large lower estimate, therefore, all the vital statistics, which are calculated from this basic figure, show some variation. On the normal population increment we could have expected, giving an estimated figure of 57,640, the various vital statistics would have shown a markedly different pattern and I have, therefore, chosen to include these in brackets in each case.

The overall density of population is 5.39 (5.62) persons per acre and 3.13 (3.27) per inhabited dwelling; the corresponding findings at the census enumeration in 1961 were 5.24 and 3.37 respectively.

Births

The 760 live births (410 of males and 350 of females) assigned to the Borough in 1968 represent a recorded birth rate of 13.7 (13.2) per 1,000 of the estimated population. When adjusted by the prescribed formula for the purpose of comparison, the recorded rate is advanced to 14.2 (13.7) which compares with the national rate of 16.9 for the same period.

The illegitimacy rate of 57 per 1,000 live births shows a slight increase over that for 1967.

Stillbirths

The six stillbirths in the year represent a stillbirth rate of 7.8 per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births. This falls well below the corresponding rate of 14.3 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The 733 deaths (353 of males and 380 of females) assigned to the Borough in 1968 represent a crude death rate of 13.3 (12.7) per 1,000 of the estimated population. When adjusted for comparison, this is reduced to 10.2 (9.8), which compares with a corresponding rate of 11.9 for the country as a whole.

The number of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	11	2	13
4 weeks and under 1 year	2	1	3
1 - 4 years	-	1	1
5 - 14 years	4	2	6
15 - 24 years	3	4	7
25 - 34 years	3	1	4
35 - 44 years	7	7	14
45 - 54 years	25	17	42
55 - 64 years	54	38	92
65 - 74 years	102	65	167
75 and over	142	242	384
	<u>353</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>733</u>

Sixteen infants died in their first year, of whom twelve failed to survive for one week. All the infant deaths took place in hospital. The infant mortality rate for the year was 21.0 per 1,000 live births, which compares with an average rate of 20.0 for the preceding five years and 18.0 for England and Wales.

Seven persons were fatally injured in road accidents, a slight decrease on the previous year, and there were eight deaths from other accidental causes, mostly accidents in the home.

Deaths from other specified causes and their distribution by age and sex do not disclose any unusual features.

The new National Classification of Deaths is set out in brackets in Table III.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year are set out in Table I and comparative statistics for the years 1944 to 1968 are shown in Table II.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

This section confers the necessary powers to secure the compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to exercise the powers under this Section during 1968. However, the staff of the Public Health Department were required to investigate three cases of elderly people living alone in a state of neglect and with the assistance of the domiciliary and supporting services available, the persons concerned were enabled to remain in their own homes, with an acceptable standard of care and amenity.

TABLE I
EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	391	Females	326	Total	717
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	19	Females	24	Total	43

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.7 (13.2)
Do. 1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.1
Do. for the five years 1963 to 1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.7

<u>Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births</u>								5.6
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-----

Still Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	2	Total	5
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	1	Total	1

Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.8
Do. do. 1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.2

<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>								
			Males	413	Females	353	Total	766

Infant Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under the age of one year:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	11	Females	2	Total	13
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	2	Females	1	Total	3

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..					21.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births								18.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births								69.8

Deaths of infants under the age of 4 weeks:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	9	Females	2	Total	11
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	2	Females	-	Total	2

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						17.1
--	----	----	--	--	--	--	--	------

Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..							-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..							-

Deaths (net):-

Males	..	353		Females	..	380	Total	733
Do. 1967:-								
Males	..	315		Females	..	340	Total	655

Death Rate:-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.3 (12.7)
Do. 1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6
Do. for the five years 1963 to 1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9

<u>Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions</u>								65.3
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	------

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..		127
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..		-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..		-
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..						-

TABLE II

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1944 - 1968

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population (unadjusted)	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
						Reigate	England
1944	36,360	593	17.9	524	14.4	41	46
1945	36,670	569	15.5	497	13.5	33	46
1946	39,690	677	18.9	493	12.4	32	43
1947	40,480	744	19.6	534	13.2	20	41
1948	41,770	611	15.6	453	10.8	28	34
1949	42,150	592	14.8	518	12.3	37	32
1950	42,030	554	13.7	564	13.4	22	30
1951	42,220	530	13.2	551	13.0	20	29
1952	42,460	599	14.4	532	12.5	21	27
1953	44,890	654	15.2	637	14.2	30	26
1954	47,610	666	14.4	572	12.0	13	25
1955	48,180	637	13.6	585	12.1	17	25
1956	48,730	663	14.3	592	12.1	7	24
1957	49,330	681	13.8	564	11.6	13	23
1958	49,760	750	15.1	655	13.2	20	22
1959	50,580	706	13.9	586	11.5	14	22
1960	51,230	793	15.4	660	12.8	18	21
1961	54,260	790	14.5	642	11.8	12	21
1962	54,680	841	15.3	705	12.8	17	21
1963	54,890	823	14.9	748	13.6	18	21
1964	55,150	863	15.6	643	11.6	28	20
1965	55,490	810	14.5	617	11.1	16	19
1966	55,930	793	14.2	662	11.8	20	19
1967	56,340	794	14.1	655	11.6	19	18
1968	55,270 (57,640)	760	13.7 (13.2)	733	13.3 (12.7)	21	18

TABLE III
Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate
during 1968

	M	F	Total
1. (B.6) Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	1	-	1
2. (B.18) Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	2	2
3. (B.19(1)) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	5	6
4. (B.19(2)) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	17	8	25
5. (B.19(3)) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	20	20
6. (B.19(4)) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	5	5
7. (B.19(5)) Leukaemia	3	1	4
8. (B.19(6)) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	30	37	67
9. (B.21) Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
10. (B.46(1)) Other endocrine etc., Diseases	-	1	1
11. (B.23) Anaemias	-	1	1
12. (B.46(3)) Mental Disorders	-	5	5
13. (B.46(4)) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	5	2	7
14. (B.26) Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	3	6
15. (B.27) Hypertensive Disease	5	4	9
16. (B.28) Ischaemic Heart Disease	109	92	201
17. (B.29) Other Forms of Heart Disease	18	28	46
18. (B.30) Cerebrovascular Disease	35	70	105
19. (B.46(5)) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	24	16	40
20. (B.31) Influenza	11	9	20
21. (B.32) Pneumonia	25	31	56
22. (B.33(1)) Bronchitis and Emphysema	24	4	28
23. (B.33(2)) Asthma	-	1	1
24. (B.46(6)) Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	4	9
25. (B.34) Peptic Ulcer	4	3	7
26. (B.36) Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	2	2
27. (B.37) Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2	3
28. (B.46(7)) Other Diseases of Digestive System	5	3	8
29. (B.38) Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-	3
30. (B.39) Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
31. (B.46(8)) Other Diseases, Genito Urinary System	-	3	3
32. (B.46(10)) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	2	2
33. (B.42) Congenital Anomalies	3	2	5
34. (B.43) Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	3	1	4
35. (B.44) Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3	1	4
36. (B.45) Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	1	4	5
37. (BE.47) Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	7
38. (BE.48) All Other Accidents	5	3	8
39. (BE.49) Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	2	2	4
	353	380	733

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Every dwelling house in the Borough has a continuous and direct supply of water from the public mains, with the exception of a bungalow in Gatton Park, which has a piped and filtered supply from a nearby spring. The water from this source is of doubtful bacterial quality and periodic visits are made to the occupier of the premises to ensure that precautions already explained to him are being observed; samples taken were satisfactory. The substitution of a mains supply is not reasonably practicable in this case.

Ninety-nine caravans on approved sites in the Borough are supplied with mains water by means of standpipes which, in all cases, are within reasonable distance of the caravans. Eighty-three other caravans have a mains supply to each, two being connected directly to the mains and the others through two intermediate storage tanks.

There was no important extension of the public water supplies during the year, except that necessitated by new building development. The mains water supply, which is distributed in the whole area by the East Surrey Water Company, was adequate in quantity throughout the year and was augmented, when necessary, by distribution of water from the reserve boreholes at The Clears and Buckland. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers. Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted at least twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about once a week under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company, thus avoiding duplication of sampling. Samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. These reports invariably indicated that the chemical and bacterial purity of the water reached a very high standard. The following report is typical of those received during the year:-

"This water is of very good organic purity, moderately soft in character and free from contaminating metals. The bacteriological condition is excellent.

As judged by this examination the water is pure, wholesome and fit for drinking and general use."

With regard to fluoridation, no definite action has been taken on this preventive measure. The average content of the natural water supply in this area is 0.15 p.p. million.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are two public swimming baths in the Borough. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. The baths are filled from the public mains and are emptied and re-filled if the chemical quality of the water tends to fall below the required standard; such action was not necessary in 1968. In addition to chemical tests made daily by the Baths Manager, samples of water from both baths were submitted by the Department for analysis at the height of the bathing season, and were reported to be of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

Samples of water from the five open air swimming baths at local schools are also submitted for analysis. All these baths are now equipped with automatic filtration and chlorination plants, and the Public Health Inspectors are provided with the necessary apparatus for checking the efficiency of the plant in operation during periodic inspections.

When sought, advice was given with regard to the maintenance of acceptable standards at swimming pools at private houses.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal are reasonably adequate in all parts of the Borough. Extensions and improvement carried out during the year included the laying of 1,225 lineal yards of surface water sewer and 179 yards of foul sewer.

Fifty premises in the Borough are served by septic tank/filter-bed systems of sewage disposal. One installation draining an individual property was repaired and overhauled during the year, necessary owing to complete breakdown of the system resulting from lack of proper maintenance. One other property which was served by an unsatisfactory and inadequate treatment plant was connected to the main sewerage system.

As already reported last year, the main sewage disposal works at Earlswood is reaching the end of its useful life, being now overloaded and difficult to maintain. Discussions have been taking place with Consultants appointed by the Council and with the Ministry on an adequate replacement works nearby. These proposals had incorporated a personal recommendation that sludge should be dealt with by incineration. This is a current national problem and had reached almost crisis point in Reigate. The incineration also involved the disposal of dry refuse, as tipping sites had nearly vanished. It was with some surprise that one had to overcome apathy from most quarters in this forward looking scheme. Recent work has shown that pathogenic viruses could easily pass through the conventional type of works, and even be discovered in the sand filters of water works. A great amount of investigation needs to be carried out, but the fundamental ideas seem to prove the necessity for a basic change in thought over sewage disposal. The chilly wind of financial crisis was not conducive to a speedy settlement of plans and a decision had not been reached by the end of the year. Due to the same restrictions the Ministry was not able to give sanction to a proposed sewerage scheme now urgently needed in the south western end of the district, for the main drainage of some 22 houses.

Flooding in the Borough - September, 1968

In mid-September parts of the Borough were badly affected by flooding following heavy rainfall and subsequent surcharging of the main surface water and sewerage systems. A survey by the Public Health Inspectors revealed about 150 houses flooded, with possible sewage contamination, and a number of food premises where decisions were necessary on food spoilage.

As a result 155 houses were disinfected by the staff during that week, upwards of 160 gallons of suitably diluted disinfectant being used. It appeared that this work was most efficacious and few enquiries for advice or assistance were received later. Food premises affected were mainly those with basement storage facilities, including licensed premises where beer cellars had been flooded. The Inspectors dealt with all cases where there was a suggestion of contaminated or flood damaged foodstuffs and supervised any disinfection of food rooms which followed. In all, about 55 tons of foodstuffs were surrendered for destruction; all being buried at the Council's controlled tip.

Closet Accommodation - Pail or Chemical Closets

All dwellings in the Borough are on the water carriage system with the exception of about nine properties on the rural outskirts of the district, where the apparatus available is a pail or chemical closet, and disposal of sink waste liquids is to some form of cesspool or soakaway.

Two properties were connected to the Council's main sewerage system during 1968 and two other dwelling houses, one of which had been vacant for several years, were under consideration for proposed conversion to a proper water carriage system. Two other properties having pail closets, which came to light during the year, were included in the proposed main sewerage scheme mentioned above.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction, pollution and rodent infestation.

Public Cleansing

I am indebted to the Cleansing Superintendent for the following information relating to the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse:-

"During 1968 the pattern and varied frequency of refuse collection remained unchanged. The frequency of collection being directly related to the number of employees available.

Recruitment for this particularly arduous and unattractive work continued to embarrass the service and a labour turnover of 100% occurred. With the total staff seldom exceeding 40 men at any given time, some 13,439 tons of domestic refuse, 1,581 tons of trade refuse and 946 tons of miscellaneous refuse were removed. In addition, the department cleared 916 special collections of 'civic amenities' bulky refuse. Student labour employed during the summer months enabled regular staff to take annual holidays without further deterioration in the service taking place. Though some work re-measurement was carried out by the Work Study Section, no real material progress was made in the introduction of a Bonus Incentive Scheme.

A departmental survey was carried out on a specific number of Council owned flat developments with a view to subsequently replacing the unsightly battery of dustbins with the 'paladin' type $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yard bulk refuse containers. Experiments in a desire to improve the standard of hygiene in respect of refuse storage arrangements at this type of housing accommodation have proved most encouraging and it is expected that a phased conversion programme will soon be undertaken throughout the Borough.

Two further Continuous Compression Loading Vehicles were put into service during the year and a further one authorised in the forthcoming year enabling the Borough's refuse collection transport to be favourably compared with that of any other Local Authority in the Country. Regrettably Garage and Workshop accommodation has now become totally inadequate. This enforces the outside dispersal of these larger vehicles as a measure of safety.

The Borough Council has approved in principle the replacement of the existing Refuse Disposal Works with fully automated direct continuous grate incineration and negotiations continue with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to achieve this aim.

Continued operation of the ageing incinerator units was not without difficulty and frustration. A serious furnace roof collapse on the No. 1 Unit occurred during the overhaul of the No. 2 Unit boiler placing the Refuse Disposal Works completely out of action for several weeks during which time the department had, in such an emergency, once again to resort to the tipping of refuse at the Lavender Pit. The modified new furnace roof, designed and rebuilt by this department's own technical staff, has reduced the number of stoppages for expensive replacement of furnace castings which hitherto had been 'burning out' far too frequently due to the poor condition of the former roof. The carrying out of repairs to the mechanical handling plant, particularly electrical switch gear, is hampered because replacement units are often obsolete, requiring ingenious and time consuming repairs to be performed on virtually worn out pieces of equipment.

Under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, car disposal showed an annual increase of 112 over the previous year and the total of 487 cars taken in created some embarrassment to the resources of the Department.

A total of 15,965 tons of refuse were effectively disposed of during the year."

Shops and Offices

In accordance with local practice, all plans submitted to the Borough Engineer & Surveyor relating to shops are passed to the Chief Public Health Inspector to enable him to offer advice or suggestions, more particularly with regard to ventilation of shop fronts, lighting, sufficiency of sanitary accommodation, water supply and drainage.

The Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963, which made provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in such premises, came into operation in 1964. Inspections of registered premises continued throughout the year, all newly notified ones being visited; also all accidents reported were investigated. Particulars of these are summarised in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Camping and Caravan Sites

The Corporation Caravan Site at Three Arch Road, Redhill, has accommodation for a maximum of thirty-nine caravans and is almost exclusively restricted to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. One plot is kept vacant and available for urgent and special cases. The site has continued to serve its purpose satisfactorily in helping to meet the needs of local caravan dwellers. There were nine new lettings in 1968 and a total of forty-eight families were in occupation at some time during the year.

There are also two privately owned caravan sites with accommodation for one hundred and forty-four caravans. At one of these sites there are specially prepared plots for about 83 caravans of the "Mobile Home" class, each provided with mains water, electricity, internal water closet, bath and main drainage connection. The facilities at both sites conform with the Model Standards for caravan sites.

Atmospheric Pollution - Clean Air Act, 1956

Four contraventions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations were recorded in the Borough during the year; improvements were achieved following representation to the firms concerned.

There were three complaints of smoke nuisance during the year, two of which arose from business premises and a third from a site where demolition works were being carried out. The first two cases were both attributable to factory plant being mismanaged and poorly maintained; the third was due to uncontrolled burning of house timbers, etc., during demolition works; the contractor in this case was found to be working on a very tight budget with inadequate equipment. The cases were investigated and an abatement of the nuisances achieved. There were four notifications of installation of new boiler plant above the minimum defined rating at premises in the Borough, and one notification to erect a new chimney stack to an existing boiler.

During 1967 it was decided to establish, as part of the National Survey, an air pollution recording and measurement station in the Borough. Following due consultation with Warren Spring Laboratory on the most suitable site and position for the combined smoke and sulphur dioxide measuring apparatus, it was agreed that the Public Health Department at Caberfeigh would be most satisfactory, giving maximum control at all times. Following a preliminary "running in" period, official records for submission to the Laboratory began in March 1968, this being the start of the summer period. Since this date there has been complete continuity of records submitted each month, giving daily readings of air pollution and sulphur dioxide, together with daily recording of weather conditions, temperature, wind velocity, etc. In addition to the records sent to Warren Spring Laboratory, quarterly reports are also sent by prior arrangement to the Consultant Chest Physician at the Redhill General Hospital.

It is not possible, at this stage, to give a clear picture of the air pollution problems of the Borough; a further build up of records is essential before proper comparisons can be made locally.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No case of infestation by bed bugs was reported during the year. Infestations of this nature are now most rare.

Registered Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses in the Borough.

Factories Act, 1961

In accordance with the requirements of Section 153 (i) (a) of the Factories Act, 1961, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1968 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	15	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	185	157	-	-
(iii) Others	38	46	-	-
TOTALS	244	218	4	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	7	6	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	9	1	1	-

(3) Outwork Sections 133 and 134

In compliance with the requirements of Section 133 (i) (c) notice was given by two local employers in respect of fifty-eight outworkers employed by them in the painting of small plastic articles.

Six lists were received from other Authorities in relation to twelve outworkers, engaged in the making or altering of wearing apparel. Inspections were made, but no further action was required.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Statistical particulars relating to the demolition, closure and repair of unfit houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1968, are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a)	(i)	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, Section 42)	.. .. .	10
	(ii)	Families displaced from Clearance Areas		Nil
(b)		Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 & 17) -		
	(i)	Demolished	.. .. .	15
	(ii)	Closed	.. .. .	1
	(iii)	Families displaced	.. .. .	33 (69 persons)
(c)		Unfit houses made fit -		
	(i)	Informally - by owner	.. .. .	60
	(ii)	After formal notice	.. .. .	3
The following information is of interest:-				
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		447
(e)		Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. .. .	15
(f)		Number of dwelling-houses represented as unfit and suitable for statutory action -		
	(i)	Under Section 42, Housing Act, 1957		11
	(ii)	Under Sections 16 & 17 Housing Act, 1957		Nil
	(iii)	Under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957		Nil
	(iv)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health		Nil
(g)	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1967		Nil
	(ii)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1968		Nil
	(iii)	Number of cases relieved during 1968		Nil
	(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1968		Nil

Official representation was made towards the latter end of the year of a small Clearance Area in the Nutley Lane area of Reigate, comprising a continuous terrace of ten houses and a detached house to the rear. All the properties were submitted as being unfit for human habitation. Ten houses contained in two Clearance Areas and fifteen individual houses were demolished during the year. One Closing Order was made in respect of a dwelling comprising a basement flat.

At the end of the year, a total of 415 unfit dwellings had been demolished or closed and 388 families, comprising 1,016 persons, had been rehoused in accordance with the Council's programmes for the clearance of unfit houses.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year</u>	
	Erected by Borough Council	65
	Erected by private enterprise	445
		<hr/> 510
2.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	25
	In permanent Council flats	85
	In old people's bungalows	2
	In miscellaneous property	1
	In old people's flatlets (conversions)	14
	In old people's flatlets (new)	4
		<hr/> 131
3.	<u>Families rehoused from clearance areas:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	7
	In permanent Council flats	15
	In old people's bungalows	5
	In miscellaneous property	2
		<hr/> 29
4.	<u>Families transferred from miscellaneous properties:-</u>	
	To Council houses	2
	To old people's bungalow	1
	To other miscellaneous property	1
		<hr/> 4
5.	<u>Families transferred from Prefabricated Temporary Bungalows:-</u>	
	To permanent Council houses	1
	To permanent Council flats	2
	To old people's bungalows	2
		<hr/> 5
6.	<u>Families transferred from one type of Council dwelling to another:-</u>	167
7.	<u>Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	8
8.	<u>Tenant of private landlord who has exchanged accommodation with tenant of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	1

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be heat treated, i.e pasteurised or sterilised, with the exception of tuberculin-tested milk.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1968 are summarised in Table IV, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a high standard of bacterial purity.

Ten samples of untreated milk and fifty-six of pasteurised milk were submitted for the prescribed test for keeping quality; milk in all categories passed these tests satisfactorily. Should any samples prove unsatisfactory liaison is maintained with the Local Authority concerned and also with the Ministry's Milk Production Officers. The raw milk samples were also examined for the presence of brucella abortus, with completely negative results.

All of the samples of pasteurised and sterilised milk satisfied prescribed tests to indicate that the heat treatment had been correctly applied.

One sample of untreated milk submitted to biological examination was reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis; this periodic test is confined to farm-bottled tuberculin-tested milk that is not to be subjected to heat treatment.

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Untreated: 10	10	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised: 56	56	-	-	56	-	-
Sterilised: -	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli
1	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 and 1965

There are four designations of milk under these Regulations - "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra Heat Treated". All milk sold for human consumption comes under one of these grades. Licences are issued for quinquennial periods, the current ones ending on 31st December, 1970, and they are also valid now elsewhere than in the area of the licensing authority. Six new dealer's licences were issued during 1968, and at the end of the year there were forty-four dealers with such licences, covering fifty premises in the Borough.

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959 and the Dried Milk Regulations, 1965.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962. No contravention of the Regulations was reported.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

These Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1964, and prescribed for the pasteurisation of all liquid egg to be used in food for human consumption, other than egg "broken out" in the food manufacturers' premises and used within twenty-four hours. The method of pasteurisation and the test to be applied were laid down in the Regulations. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough, and no problem arose necessitating sampling during 1968.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. J.A. Palgrave, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Chem.A., and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Epsom.

There are four premises in the Borough at which ice-cream is manufactured for sale. In each case soft ice-cream is made from a sterile cold mix in a freezing machine, from which it is directly dispensed through a nozzle. Two of the premises are sweet confectioner's shops and have been registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, while the other two are cafes and exempt from registration. The proprietors of these establishments have accepted a code of practice for the proper control, cleansing and sterilisation of the freezing machines and equipment.

A total of 130 confectioners, grocers, fruiterers, etc., are registered for the retail sale of ice-cream, obtained in all cases pre-packed from one of the large manufacturers. Hotels, catering establishments and cinemas are exempt from registration.

Thirteen samples of ice-cream - all of which were taken from caterers in the Borough - were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All of these were placed in provisional Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling.

Eleven samples of fresh cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, seven of which were satisfactory. The four remaining samples, all from two bakery premises, were considered to be of indifferent bacterial standard, indicating poor storage and handling. In consequence, the vendors were instructed on the need for a satisfactory hygiene standard. Later check samples showed a marked improvement.

SECTION V
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious diseases is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are usually admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region.

The disposal to various hospitals of the seven infectious cases requiring institutional care in 1968, was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital	1 case (Scarlet Fever)
	1 " (Dysentery)
	1 " (Erysipelas)
Redhill General Hospital	3 cases (Puerperal Fever)
	1 case (Food Poisoning)

In addition, several cases of uncomplicated minor infections were admitted to Hospital, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, on grounds of inadequate facilities for home isolation.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, came into operation with effect from 1st October, 1968, and the revised list of notifiable diseases is as follows:-

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective Jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping Cough
Measles	Yellow fever

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table V shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospitals and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Smallpox

No confirmed case of smallpox was reported in the Borough in 1968.

TABLE V

Cases of Infectious Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) Notified
During the Year, 1968

	Under 1 year	Cases notified in age periods										Totals	Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	2	9	1	3	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	2	4	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	3	-	6	2	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	12	5	4	3	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	56*
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
TOTALS	2	3	2	13	8	21	5	5	20	6	7	6	7	56
Totals 1967	20	75	106	120	146	290	25	21	36	18	22	6	18	46

* All forms

Scarlet Fever

Seventeen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. One, which occurred in a school, was admitted to hospital. All the cases were clinically mild, but were investigated in the usual routine manner.

Whooping Cough

There was a slight increase in the number of notified cases, but the disease was generally very mild in character.

Measles

There was a sharp decrease in the number of cases of measles, following a widespread outbreak during 1967. The decrease in prevalence may also be attributable to the introduction of measles vaccination.

Dysentery

There was a decrease in the number of cases notified and those that occurred were all in a local institution. Routine investigations and preventive measures were carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

Erysipelas

Two cases of erysipelas were notified during the year and one was admitted to hospital because of lack of nursing facilities in the home. This disease is no longer notifiable, with effect from 1st October, 1968.

Food Poisoning

There were two notified cases of food poisoning. Full investigations were carried out, including bacterial examination of specimens.

Pneumonia

Six cases of pneumonia were notified, although there were fifty-six persons who died from this disease. The reason for the apparent discrepancy is due to the fact that with many elderly patients it is a terminal event, and not officially notifiable. With effect from 1st October, 1968, the notification of all forms of pneumonia is no longer required.

Infective Jaundice

On 15th June, 1968, The Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations, 1968, came into operation, requiring general practitioners to notify cases of infective jaundice. Four cases were notified during the remainder of the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Four women, three of whom were in local maternity units, were notified as suffering from rise of temperature in the lying-in period. This condition is no longer notifiable, with effect from 1st October, 1968.

Other Diseases

Sixteen cases of acute illness, which were thought to be infective in origin, were admitted to hospital for investigation. Ten of these were subsequently confirmed as cases of viral infection.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table VI, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

Five new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs were notified in 1968, representing a case rate of 0.09 per 1,000 of the population. This is the lowest case rate recorded in the Borough and stresses the importance of routine x-rays of the chest, especially among those more likely to develop the disease. The National Health Service offers miniature mass x-ray facilities and B.C.G. inoculation for children.

One new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year under review.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of eight previously known cases of tuberculosis (six respiratory and two non-respiratory which had been notified elsewhere and taken up residence in the Borough.

The names of thirty-four cases were removed from the register of tuberculous patients; seven on death, ten on moving from the district and seventeen on complete recovery from the disease. It is interesting to note that in only one case was the cause of death attributable to tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 117 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 96 (69 males and 27 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 21 (7 males and 14 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number of cases represents a reduction of twenty on the corresponding figure for 1967.

Mass Radiography

A total of 3,510 persons (2,540 males and 970 females) were examined through the normal Mass Radiography Service at public and industrial surveys in the Borough. Of those so examined two men were found to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, three from lung cancer and also one woman from lung cancer, all of which had hitherto been unsuspected.

TABLE VI

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1968, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 and upwards	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Totals 1967	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination against smallpox is now undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccination performed during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	32	554	75	661
Re-vaccination	-	15	252	267

The foregoing figures represent an increase in the primary vaccination of infants which, in accordance with official advice, is now postponed until the second year. Re-vaccinations are for the most part attributable to children needing to be re-vaccinated for foreign travel with their schools.

Records of vaccination and re-vaccination are not now required in respect of persons over the age of fifteen years; these were formerly included in the totals and, for the most part, related to persons who required valid International Certificates of Vaccination for foreign travel.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Year of Birth:	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1961/64</u>	Others under <u>16 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
	223	378	26	3	8	13	651

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 1066 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme is aimed at the vaccination against whooping cough of infants under the age of six months, with reinforcing doses about one year later. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

Year of Birth:	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1961/64</u>	Others under <u>16 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
	222	373	24	1	2	-	622

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 556 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation.

Vaccination against Tetanus

Vaccination against tetanus is available to children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. Tetanus vaccine may be given separately but is usually combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. The normal practice has been to advise primary vaccination against tetanus before the age of six months, with reinforcing doses about one year later and again at school entry and between the ages of eight and twelve years, but since 1st September, 1968, the eight to twelve year old booster has been eliminated and a final reinforcing dose is given at fifteen years of age.

The numbers of persons vaccinated against tetanus in 1968, are as follows:-

0 - 4 years	630
5 - 14 years	121
	<hr/>
	751
	<hr/>
Reinforcing doses	1156

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

There was no extension of the groups eligible for vaccination under the County Council's arrangements, which include persons up to the age of forty years and those who are considered to be exposed to special risks. Oral vaccine has now completely superseded Salk vaccine.

The numbers vaccinated against poliomyelitis by their own doctors or at County Council's Clinics during the year are as follows:-

Primary Immunisation	702
Reinforcing doses	751

Measles Vaccination

During 1968 a full scale programme of vaccination against Measles was provided and 1097 received immunisation.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

The County Council's arrangements for routine B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis extend to thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and independent schools, and also to some older pupils and students at County Colleges and other establishments for further education. Subject to the consent of their parents, persons in these groups are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. The object of the scheme is to protect young people before they leave school and so widen their range of contact with possible sources of infection.

Testing was conducted at eleven schools in the Borough during the year, with the following results:-

Number Mantoux tested	803
Number of negative reactors	764
Percentage giving negative reaction	95.1%
Number vaccinated	763
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	99.9%

The foregoing figures are roughly in accord with those for recent years, except for an increase in the proportion of pupils giving a negative reaction to the Mantoux test. This is, no doubt, directly related to the declining incidence of infectious cases of tuberculosis in this area.

While the main purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the usual practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic and is usually undertaken at specified centres.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Department of Health and Social Security in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly return of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources indicated that the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious illness in the Borough in 1968 caused little interference with employment or school attendance. There were 69 cases of German Measles, 52 of chicken-pox and two reports of mumps.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles that are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

In the course of selective school hygiene inspections five individual pupils were found to be affected with pediculosis which, in most instances, was of minor degree and confined to nits in the hair. All were promptly and satisfactorily cleansed in their own homes, with any necessary advice and assistance from the Health Visitors, including the loan of nit combs and cleansing agents.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR, 1968

Public Health Department,
"Caberfeigh",
24, Hatchlands Road,
REDHILL, Surrey.

To the Chairman & Members of the Public Health Committee,
Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you my Annual Report of the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1968.

The vacancy in one District Inspector post continued throughout the whole of the period, despite several attempts to get a replacement. This created the usual problems in maintaining routine work and delayed certain schemes already commenced. The appointment of a second Technical Officer in July went some way towards alleviating the position. Items of note during the year are given brief reference below.

In the field of housing further progress in the disposal of worn out properties brought the total of those demolished since the last war to 490 (with 452 families comprising 1,238 persons rehoused as a result); houses improved and modernised rose by a further 77 to 820.

An outbreak of dysentery and jaundice in a large Institution was the subject of a detailed exercise on measures of control, a number of improvements were instituted, and - thanks to co-operation between staff and the department - the "epidemic" remained a domestic one within the establishment.

Heavy rainfall in September caused severe flooding in some areas of the Borough and, where sewage contamination was known or suspected, disinfection was offered and subsequently carried out at 155 houses; the Inspectors were involved in the inspection, surrender and disposal of 55 tons of foodstuffs.

On the question of clean air, the Council joined the National Survey following the setting up of an air pollution recording and measuring station at Caberfeigh - from March onwards continuous daily readings were recorded for return to the Warren Spring Laboratory.

A noise abatement week was held in June, when 1,000 handbills and 200 posters were distributed to public buildings, factories, schools, etc. - talks to school children created interest, if also some "off beat" reactions not anticipated.

With meat inspection, the year saw an almost complete elimination of tuberculosis from the slaughterhouse, only eleven cases being recorded in 5,400 animals examined.

Pest control work revealed a marked increase in mice problems; an about average year for rat infestations, with a sustained nil return in the sewers but with some increase on agricultural property; a lighter than usual year for wasps; but again a rise in the incidence of pigeons, rabbits and foxes.

The most lasting impression is undoubtedly the frustration of a scheme limited by the financial squeeze, involving a main drainage project in the south fringe of the Borough, and now becoming more urgent. An early "green light" on this problem is one of the most pressing current needs.

The friendly help and backing of Dr. W. Moore is readily acknowledged, as is the support of the staff, particularly in times of pressure. My thanks are also due to colleagues in other Departments for their willing co-operation at all times. The kindly forbearance you of the Public Health Committee show to me helps in considerable measure to "lighten the load" of decision and recommendation, and attendance at Committee has always been a pleasure in consequence.

I remain,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At your Service,

R. FRANKHAM.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

28th July, 1969.

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 86 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning.

The disinfection and disinfestation of material continued to be carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This was done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in the fumigation chamber. As before the service was also available to five neighbouring authorities:- Caterham and Warlingham U.D.C., Dorking and Horley R.D.C. Epsom and Ewell Borough, Godstone R.D.C., and Leatherhead U.D.C.

Details are given below of the work carried out, including that at the Station and, unless otherwise indicated, relate to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc:-

(1) <u>Reigate Borough</u>	
Items	267
Rooms	39
(2) <u>Caterham & Warlingham U.D.C.</u>	
Items	10
(3) <u>Dorking & Horley R.D.C.</u>	
Items	233
(4) <u>Godstone R.D.C.</u>	
Items	1,439
(5) <u>Leatherhead U.D.C.</u>	
Items	4
(6) <u>Epsom & Ewell Borough</u>	
Items	103

The arrangement for the disinfection of library books by formalin vapour continued to be available.

Following an outbreak of dysentery and infective hepatitis in a hospital for mental patients, and in order to endeavour to control the diseases within the buildings, the Public Health Inspectors were engaged on a detailed survey of the premises, to highlight possible danger spots for cross infection and to recommend priority lines of action. Disinfection was carried out as a routine in all departments where there was a likely source of infection. As a sequel to the recommendations a considerable amount of maintenance and improvement work was completed or under way by the end of the year. A gratifying result of the co-operation and efforts of staff and department was the "containing" of the diseases within the establishment.

The infestation of dwelling houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, was minimal; four cases of the latter were dealt with during the year. Regular attention for cockroach disinfestation was necessary at an old people's home; insect pest control under contract arrangements was continued at a hospital and fire brigade premises; similar work was carried out at schools in the Borough, as and when necessary, on behalf of the County Education Authority. Infestations of flies or ants were dealt with at twenty-nine dwelling houses.

Three cases of elderly persons living alone in insanitary conditions were dealt with by the Department during 1968.

The disinfection of telephones in all departments was continued throughout the year by the Disinfecting Officer, when about 160 telephones were dealt with monthly.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

This subject is governed by the following legislation:-

- (a) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.
- (b) Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.
- (c) Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 62 - 79 - Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.
- (d) Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
- (e) Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.
- (f) Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-52.
- (g) Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960.
- (h) Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

Ten applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences were granted at the beginning of the year. No infringements of the Act were noted during 1968.

The slaughterhouse at Merstham, modernised in 1963, provides for a "line-system" of slaughter and dressing; it continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

As before, 100% inspection of meat was achieved throughout the year; this having been the case since 1954 when the slaughterhouse was originally extended and reopened. There was a slight increase in the number of animals slaughtered during the year, and this was reflected in the rise in the incidence of disease. Tuberculosis - now mainly discovered in swine only - showed a decrease to negligible proportions. Cattle on the other hand found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, a parasitic disease capable of development into a tapeworm in humans, showed a small increase despite a fall in the numbers of animals slaughtered.

Arrangements for the disposal of diseased meat continued to be satisfactory. All diseased and rejected meat is now consigned to one byproducts manufacturer; previous supplies in part to a local Mink Farm being terminated.

In calculating the percentage of animals found on inspection to be affected by disease, other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis, figures relating to cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke, and to pigs suffering from pneumonia or lung congestion, are disregarded, as these are common conditions not of value for comparative statistical purposes.

The licensed Knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, continued operations throughout the year, being used for the cutting up of carcasses of animals which had died or had been slaughtered on the owners' premises. No horses or other animals were slaughtered here during the year. Certain items of maintenance drawn to the attention of the owner were remedied during the year. There are no poultry processing premises in the district and poultry inspections were limited to routine ones on retail sale; no incidents of note arose.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 -

Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of food stuffs at premises throughout the Borough continued to be made during the routine inspection of food premises and during sampling visits; also at the special request of food traders. Calls in this last category still continue at a minimal level, as in many cases unsatisfactory pre-packed foods are returned through trade channels. Figures are not available from this source and therefore the total bulk of foodstuffs rejected is not known. Breakdown in refrigeration plant in retail shops selling frozen foods again accounted for a large proportion of food surrendered.

There were 27 complaints to the Department during the year of alleged unsatisfactory food or food containers, five of which were considered to be unjustified or inconclusive following investigation. Of the remainder, four were on unsatisfactory containers - two of dirty milk bottles and two defective cans for luncheon meat and baby food respectively.

The other 18 may be divided into two broad categories:- 14 involving foreign material and 4 food spoilage or deterioration due to bad stock rotation. The foreign material cases were seven in cake confectionery, three in milk, one sausages, one mineral water, one pickle and one jam. Bad stock handling and rotation involved three cases with bread and one with sausages; as usual two of the commonest foods in such incidents.

The foreign bodies dealt with in these incidents ranged from slugs to a fly, and a car battery cap to a household pin. Several cases required statutory warnings "to watch it" in future, but most were resolved satisfactorily; in no case was there such evidence of negligence as to imply the need to consider legal proceedings.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

WHOLE OR IN PART

	<u>Cattle</u> (<u>Excluding</u> <u>Bulls and Cows</u>)	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	587	1	47	195	2,619	4,567
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	587	1	47	195	2,619	4,567
<u>ALL DISEASES</u> <u>EXCEPT TUBERCUL-</u> <u>OSIS &</u> <u>CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	2	1	7	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	183	-	15	-	166	584
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	31.17% 6 14.14%	-	38.3% 10.64%	.51% -	6.33% 2.52%	13.13% 6.1%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u> <u>ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected aff- ected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	0.24%
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submit- ted to treatment by refrigeration	9	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

6 Percentage excluding Distomatosis

8 Percentage excluding Pneumonia and Congestion of Lungs

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was a little over 2½ tons.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

Description	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Fever/ Oedema	Emaciation	Pleurisy & Pericarditis	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Fascioliasis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	Congestion & Pneumonia	Telenge- ctasis	Miscellan- eous	TOTAL
		Generalised	Localised														
BOVINES (Excluding calves)	635	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Whole Carcasses and Offal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heads and Tongues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	100	1	2	3	-	-	-	5
Livers and Part Livers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	4	-	35	1	10
Mesentery & Intestines, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	157
CALVES	195	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Whole Carcasses and Offal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lungs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP	2,619	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcasses and Offal	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Part Carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Lungs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	2	7
Livers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	78	4	-	-	-	-	148
PIGS	4,567	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcasses and Offal	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	8	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	15
Part Carcasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	34	48
Heads and Tongues	-	-	10	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	20
Lungs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	305	-	-	373
Livers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	1	35	-	-	1	76
Mesentery and Intestines, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Hearts	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
TOTALS=	8,016	-	11	1	7	86	13	11	4	166	125	44	78	308	35	46	935

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 -
Sections 8 & 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption (Continued)

During 1968 the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for disposal at the Council's Refusal Disposal Works:-

	cwts.	lbs.
Meat and offal	4	11
Meat - canned	2	85
Fish	1	42
Sugar and Confectionery	9	17
Frozen Food	8	17
Tinned Fish	1	47
Tinned Fruit	10	28
Tinned Milk		13
Tinned Vegetables	1	74
Biscuits	1	55
Cereals	1	48
Fats		67
Beverages & Bottled Juices	20	22
Fruit		18
Miscellaneous packet food	5	72
Ice Cream	1	48
Flour	1	29

This work involved 79 visits by the Inspectors, and the rejection of just over two tons of food in all.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public - Food & Drugs Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The routine inspection of food premises indicated that in the main a satisfactory standard of hygiene was being maintained. There is little doubt that the considerable increase in self-service layout in shops has led to higher standards in equipment and day to day maintenance. One consequence, is cluttered storage and bulk refuse areas at the rear, due to the multiplicity of packages and wrappers, and problems and complaints are higher in this respect. Certainly also efficient stock rotation has become vital, and required much greater supervision. Advances in techniques and standards undoubtedly made at the production end are not yet matched by the same efficiency at retail level.

Inspections were continued of mobile food traders operating in the Borough and 30 routine checks were made in such cases. Complaints inwards from adjoining Authorities, on food vehicles based in the Borough, were minimal and of a minor nature.

REGISTER OF FOOD PREMISES AND PARTICULARS OF WASHING FACILITIES

Type of Business	Number of Premises	Wash Hand Basins Provided	Sinks	
			Required	Provided
Grocers	94	94	94	94
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	35	35	35	35
Butchers	33	33	33	33
Fishmongers	16	16	16	16
Bakehouses	9	9	9	9
Confectioners, Cake	8	8	8	8
Confectioners, Sweet	80	80	22	48
Food Manufactories	2	2	2	2
Catering Establishments:-				
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	67	67	67	67
Licensed Premises	63	57	63	70
School Kitchens	21	21	21	21
Clubs	13	13	13	13

REGISTER OF FOOD PREMISES AND PARTICULARS OF WASHING FACILITIES (Continued)

Primary inspections made at food premises were as follows: -

Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Vehicles and stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Routine follow-up inspections under the Regulations numbered 219 and 756 visits of inspection for all purposes were made to these premises.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1968.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved foods, etc:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	32	35
Fish-fryers	9	15
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	2	5
Delicatessen shops	2	6
	<u>45</u>	<u>61</u>

(b) Manufacture of Ice-Cream

Confectioner	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
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(c) Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream

Confectioners, etc.	73	52
Grocers, etc.	47	40
Fruiterers, etc.	4	12
Newsagents, etc.	5	6
Fishmongers	1	2
Total	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>

In addition to these premises, there are 12 catering establishments where ice cream is sold for consumption off the premises, these being exempt from registration under existing law, and there are two of these premises where soft ice cream is manufactured.

The arrangement was continued with the Borough Engineer whereby any plans of food premises, submitted for Bye-law approval, were examined in the Department and comments made on any aspect of environmental hygiene involved.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Section 89 - 99
Sampling and Analysis

One hundred and ten samples purchased by the Sampling Officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, 22 being formal samples and the remainder taken informally. They covered a wide range of commodities, five of which were the subject of adverse reports by the Public Analyst. These related to the following:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Contravention</u>	<u>Result</u>
43	Low Fat Spread	Labelling	Discussions with manufacturers; matter in abeyance pending action by other local authorities.
46	Tomato Sauce	Labelling	Modified on request.
77	Beef, Pork Slicing Meat	Labelling	Product re-labelled following representation to the firm.
84	Nuts & Raisins	Labelling	Label modified.
105	Peanut Butter	Deterioration in stock.	Retailer warned to keep stricter control on stock rotation.

Participation in a scheme was continued, as started in 1966 with other authorities up and down the country, for the systematic sampling of certain foods to provide data on the extent of contamination by toxic chemicals (particularly organochloride pesticide residues). The scheme arose on a request from the Government to the Advisory Committee on the subject "to consider and advise on improvements to present safety arrangements desirable to provide greater protection against hazards arising from the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and food storage". The rota organised at county level, indicating the samples apportioned to the various authorities, was completed during the year. The two samples to be procured here during the period were white bread and milk. In the case of the latter minute quantities of B.H.C. and Dieldrin were found and there was also a trace of organo-phosphorus insecticide.

The Interim Report of the results obtained in the first year of the Survey was published during the year, and showed that traces of residues of pesticides were present in a significant number of samples examined, although amounts were small and tended to follow the pattern corresponding with the use of pesticides with certain crops. However, there were some exceptions, and others where the origin of the pesticide was less obvious.

According to the present state of knowledge there appeared to be no short-term hazard, but it was considered desirable that pesticide residues continued to be restricted as low as practicable and sustained vigilance to this end was essential.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:- Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; butter; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Commonwealth or Foreign origin.

Upwards of 42 inspections were made at retail shops during the year without noteworthy incident.

Milk and Dairies General Regulations, 1959.

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

<u>Distributors:</u>	(a) With 2 dairies in the Borough	...	...	...	2
	(b) With dairies outside the Borough	...	...	...	4
	(c) With premises in the Borough				
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)	...	...	...	44

The two dairies in the Borough are now only used for the storage and distribution of milk. As has applied for several years now, all milk sold in the Borough must be heat treated with the exception of farm-bottled tuberculin tested milk now sold under the designation "Un-treated".

Frequent samples of the various grades were taken on a regular sampling basis, and there were no adverse reports on any of them. Full details of this sampling are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: J. Palgrave, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

	Samples Taken			Adversely Reported Upon
	Formal	Informal	Totals	
Beer	4	3	7	-
Bread & Flour	-	2	2	-
Butter & Margarine	-	4	4	1
Cheese	-	3	3	-
Condiments	-	3	3	-
Confectionery - Cake	-	5	5	-
Confectionery - Sweet	-	3	3	-
Drugs	-	4	4	-
Fish & Fish Products	-	2	2	-
Fruit - Dried or Tinned	-	6	6	-
Fruit Drinks	-	5	5	-
Jams & Marmalade	-	5	5	-
Jellies	-	8	8	-
Meat & Meat Products	1	3	4	1
Milk	12	4	16	-
Milk Products	-	9	9	-
Nut Foods	-	3	3	2
Pickles	-	2	2	-
Sauces	-	2	2	1
Sausages	2	3	5	-
Soups	-	1	1	-
Spirits	3	-	3	-
Vegetables	-	4	4	-
Miscellaneous	-	4	4	-
Totals	22	88	110	5

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber in the Borough are subject to bye-laws made in 1954, under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council, Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1968, no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 15 men's and 29 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1961.

The table on page 36 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 218 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 265 entries; in 10 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 9 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention during the year to one case involving defects which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority. Forty six inspections were made at building sites and work of engineering construction; in the main it was found that improved temporary sanitary facilities were being provided.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1968.

Housing Acts, 1957 to 1964. Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 & Rent Act, 1957 Housing Subsidies Act, 1956. Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956 Housing (Management of Houses in Multi-Occupation) Regulations, 1962

A small Clearance Area comprising eleven houses was the subject of an Official Representation by the Medical Officer of Health towards the end of the year. Twenty five houses - the subject of earlier action under the Housing Acts - were demolished during the period, and a basement flat was closed. A total of thirty three families, comprising 69 persons, were rehoused in 1968.

Action continued on the 85 houses in the Third Programme of unfit houses begun in 1967, and resulted in a further reduction by fourteen to an outstanding total of 59 houses. Of these, action on a further 22 properties had already begun or was contemplated at the end of the year.

No applications were received under the Rent Act, 1957, and the need for action did not arise,

Inspections at houses in multi-occupation produced further cases where improvements in amenities were required, relating mainly to deficiencies in sanitary accommodation, personal washing facilities, food storage and preparation facilities, and improved lighting and heating. In conjunction with the Borough Engineer control was exercised on proposed conversions and Fire Prevention Officers of Surrey Fire Brigade gave advice where adequate means of escape in case of fire was under scrutiny.

Factories Act, 1961 - List of Factories
on Register at end of 1968

	<u>Mechanical Power</u>	<u>No Mechanical Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	1	-
Art Leather Works	2	-
Bakers	10	-
Basket Works	1	-
Book Binder, etc.	2	-
Boot Makers and Repairers	3	-
Brick Makers, etc.	2	-
Brush Makers	2	-
Builders and Contractors	11	6
CabinetMakers and Upholsterers	7	1
Cleaning Powder Manufacturers	1	-
Cork Disc and Insulation Manufacturers	1	-
Corn and Seed Merchants	2	-
Dentists	2	-
Dressmakers and Milliners	4	3
Dry Cleaners	8	-
Engineers Automobile	27	-
Engineers Electrical	3	2
Engineers Light	41	2
Essence Makers	2	-
Film Processing	1	-
Food Manufacturers	1	-
Foundries	2	-
Fullers Earth Works	1	-
Furniture Making	1	-
Gas Holder Station	1	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing	1	2
Heating Engineers	3	-
Knacker's Yard	-	1
Laundries	3	-
Locomotive Repairs	1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	3	-
Motor Body Repairs	8	-
Motor Cycle and Cycle Repairs	1	2
Newspaper Fudging	3	-
Photographic Works, etc.	3	-
Plastics Makers	8	-
Precast Concrete Manufacturers	1	-
Printers	10	-
Radio Repairs	-	1
Rust Proofing	1	-
Scale Repairers	2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	2	-
Sheet Metal Workers	3	-
Suitcase Manufacturer	1	-
Tailors	2	1
Thermometer Manufacturer	1	-
Timber Merchants	3	-
Tyre Repairs	2	-
Watchmakers	3	-
Wax Refining Works	1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	38	-
TOTALS	<u>244</u>	<u>21</u>

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
House Purchase and Housing Acts, 1959 to 1964

The Public Health Inspectors continued to supervise work in connection with standard grants and 51 applications were dealt with, 46 being approved. Schemes were completed at 48 houses and, in consequence, the following improvements were achieved:- 36 baths in separate bathrooms, 41 wash-hand basins, 34 hot water supplies, improved water closet accommodation in 41 cases and 18 foodstores installed. Three hundred and thirteen visits of inspection were made in connection with this work generally. Only 12 applications for grants related to tenanted houses, a relatively small percentage of the total. Up to the end of the year around 360 applications for standard grants had been received since the inception of the scheme, and 291 of these had been approved.

Liaison continued to be exercised with the Borough Engineer in proposals dealing with discretionary grant application, and 40 such cases were referred to this Department for observations during the year. Consequent on this grant assistance generally, 77 housing units were brought up to a reasonable standard of both repair and amenity in 1968.

In mid-year a survey of houses was carried out in a compact area in Redhill, built in the early part of the century. Some 170 dwellings were examined, when it was found that 67% had been provided with the standard amenities, mainly with grant assistance. Following this, interest in modernisation has resulted in some applications for grants. Elderly tenants or owners in other properties have expressed their antipathy to improvements for the time being, particularly in cases of financial limitations. Consideration of follow-up action was deferred in view of the revision of the Housing Acts and of improvement grants generally.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections under the Act were maintained during the year and all new registered premises were visited. The continuing shortage of one Public Health Inspector throughout the year caused some curtailment of the work. One hundred and twenty nine general inspections were made, 165 visits were paid and contraventions were noted at nine premises. At the end of the period all but a few minor deficiencies had been remedied. In no case was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

There was a small rise in the number of accidents reported, from 16 to 19, all of which were investigated. Informal advice was required in six cases and no action in the remainder. Accidents involving falls and collisions and whilst handling goods were in the majority, as had been recorded in the past. Injuries were minor in character and were as follows, in descending order of frequency:- feet and legs (8), body (6), hands and arms (3), head (2).

There was a slight increase in the premises on the register at the end of the year:- from 677 to 680. The number of premises and persons employed in the various categories were as follows:-
204 Offices (3,030 persons), 406 Retail shops (2,176 persons), 16 Wholesale Premises (248 persons), 53 Catering Establishments (404 persons), 1 Fuel Storage Depot (27 persons).

A tabular statement of the various contraventions remedied in offices and shops is included on Page 40.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order deals with the inspection and licensing of boiling-plants used by collectors of waste food for animal feeding. Such waste food may spread foot-and-mouth and other animal disease if not properly boiled for at least one hour. There is only one such food plant licenced in the Borough at present, and inspections indicated that the requirements of the Order were being observed.

Fairground Sanitation:

Three fairs and one circus staged for short periods in the Borough during the year, and were all visited and inspected for general sanitary arrangements. Temporary sanitary accommodation and an emptying and cleansing service continued to be provided by the Council at appropriate charges.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953. Oil Heater Regulations, 1962 and 1966

The Heating Appliances Regulations deal with safety standards in the construction of electric, gas and oil space heaters, and for the fixing of satisfactory fire guards. The standards now adopted by manufacturers to conform with the appropriate British Standard Specification ensure compliance with the requirements. Contraventions on retail sale are now a rarity, and none were discovered during the year.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

In legislating for nuisances arising from noise and vibration, the Act does not lay down rigid standards on permissible noise levels; indeed it would appear most difficult to do so, variable as the problem will be in each case on location and distance, intensity and duration, and the time of day or night involved.

Eleven complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year and in eight cases subsequent investigations revealed that there was justification for complaint. These cases were as follows:-

	<u>Problem</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Road drills	- 2 incidents	-	Restricting working hours in one case and muffling in the other.
Factory machinery	- 2 incidents	-	Machinery resited in one case and limitation of working hours in the other.
Manufacturing process	- 2 incidents	-	Limitation of working hours on one case, noisy process short-lived in other.
Heavy earth moving plant	- 1 incident	-	Plant renewed.
Vehicle bell chimes	- 1 incident	-	Vendors warned.

In no case was it necessary to seek authority to take formal action.

In 1967 the Ministry of Housing & Local Government circularised all Local Authorities on the subject of noise control generally, and asked for appropriate action and publicity locally in the ensuing twelve months. In response to this during June, 200 posters and 1,000 handbills were distributed throughout the Borough for use in schools, public buildings, factories, etc. and in addition publicity was given in the local press. Following the offer of "follow through" talks keen response came from a local girls' school, after which the Public Health Inspectors were engaged on practical visits and demonstrations, aided by the use of a noise level meter and films.

Later in the year further advice was received from the Ministry on the control of noise from concrete breakers and building site operations, in consequence all public utilities were circularised on the need for proper control of noisy equipment. A clause to this effect is now entered in all relevant Council contracts dealt with by the Borough Engineer.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	...	...	...	98
House Drainage	...	...	...	116
Cesspools overflowing	...	...	...	4
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	...	6
Rats or Mice	...	...	...	571
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	...	...	...	29
Other insect pests	...	...	...	18
Wasps nests	...	...	...	49
Unsound food (sold)	...	...	...	28
Keeping of Animals, etc.	...	...	...	4
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	20
Noise Nuisance	...	...	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	57
Flooded Houses (Calls for Assistance)	...	...	...	84

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1968	...	...	...	129
Issued during year	...	...	...	76
Complied with during year	...	...	...	120
Statutory action necessary	...	...	...	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	85

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1968	...	...	...	-
Issued during year	...	...	...	2
Complied with during year	...	...	...	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	-

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-Houses

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes of dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	...	...	...	...	...	150
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	20
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	14
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
New W.C.'s. installed	...	...	...	...	...	42
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sewage treatment plants repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " " abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors, windows and doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	27
Sinks installed or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Wash-hand basins renewed or installed	...	...	...	...	...	41
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hot water supply installed	...	...	...	...	...	35
Baths installed	...	...	...	...	...	36
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	12

Food Premises

Food storage and display improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	29
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-hand basins installed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
First Aid Equipment provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks renewed or installed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dustbins renewed/bin area improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage Improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	4

Factories

Drainage systems improved	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4

Other business premises - Offices, Shops etc.

Rooms cleaned and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Floor coverings renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Heating provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Thermometers provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary conveniences improved	...	...	...	...	...	5
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hot water provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Clothing accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Structural defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	2
Machinery Guarded	...	...	...	...	...	7
First Aid Boxes provided	...	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	3

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below, the table having been modified to conform with the simplified return now made annually to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.	Number of properties in district	21,747	68
2 (a)	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	568	3
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	345	3
	(ii) Mice	117	4
3 (a)	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	228	45
(b)	Number infested by (i) Rats	89	56
	(ii) Mice	13	6

This work carried out by the District Pests Officers involved the following visits of inspection:-

Local Authority premises	1,074
Dwelling Houses	5,065
Business Premises	1,115
Agricultural Premises	385
	<hr/>
	7,639

Visits in relation to other pests 870

TOTAL 8,509

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control (Continued)

The total number of rat infestations found during the year remained about the same, although there was an increase on agricultural holdings. Block control schemes continued to be helpful in extending control where notification had been received. The number of mice infestations found during the year increased to a marked degree. All infestations of both rats and mice were dealt with by Pests Officers of the Department.

Inspection and control work on agricultural land was continued throughout the year, and period arrangements on a quarterly charge basis for regular disinfection by the Pests Officers were continued with satisfactory results. There were eight of these at the end of the period, an increase in two new business premises and a loss of one farmer following his retirement. Similar arrangements were also continued in respect of a large controlled tip in Merstham, where infestation was kept to a minimum. Charges at business premises continued unaltered, the occupier being required to meet the cost of the treatment on a basis of 10/- an hour, with a minimum charge of 15/-.

It has been normal practice in the past for the staff to conduct twice yearly systematic inspection and treatment as necessary of the Borough sewerage system. For the previous five years no evidence of rat infestation had been reported, so - as in 1967 - checking measures were limited to inspection points in areas mainly prone to troubles in the past. This operation involved the test baiting of about 100 manholes, from which there was one isolated small "take" in Merstham. Despite further intensive baiting and checking no further infestation was revealed. Once again these results indicated that, for all practical purpose, the rat population in the sewers was nil.

The control work already detailed was exclusive of that carried out under contract arrangements with:-

- (a) The Surrey County Council at St. Anne's, Redhill, and its ancillary homes, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises etc.;
- (b) The Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill General Hospital.

Apart from this rodent control work the officers were engaged from time to time at Corporation property in dealing with other pests, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers and moles. Also, 49 wasps' nests were destroyed during the summer period, this seasonal problem being comparatively light in 1968.

Education and Instruction

As in the past, educational visits were arranged to the Refuse Disposal Works, Sewage Works, Disinfecting Station and Caravan Sites. In the main, these visits were for organised parties of Student Nurses, Health Visitors and Public Health Inspectors in training.

